



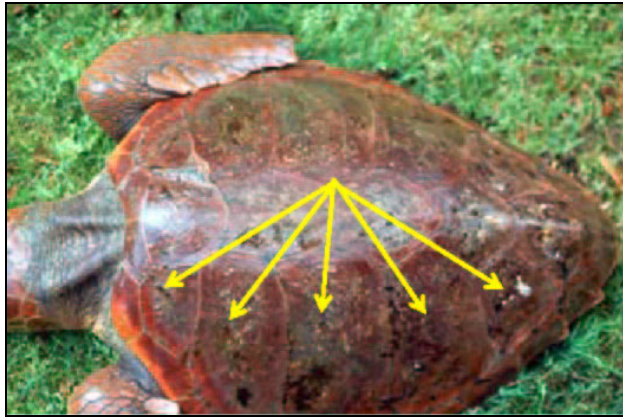
SC Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network Species Identification and Training Guide

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Speciation

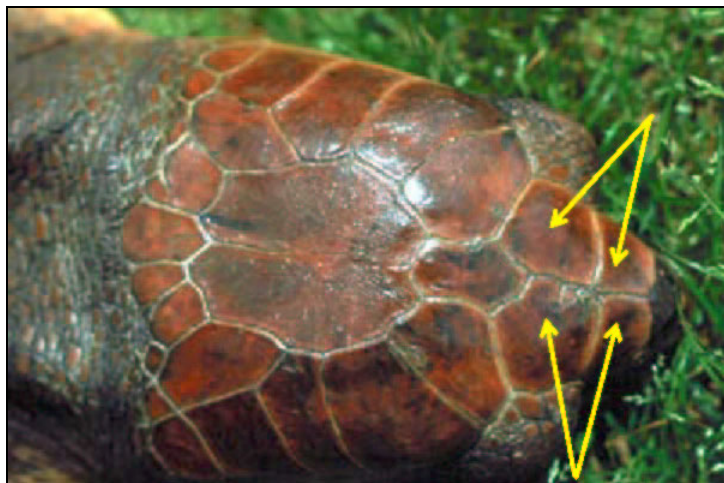
1. *Caretta caretta* carapace showing five lateral scutes and reddish brown color.



2. *C. caretta* plastron showing three inframarginal scutes and yellow color.



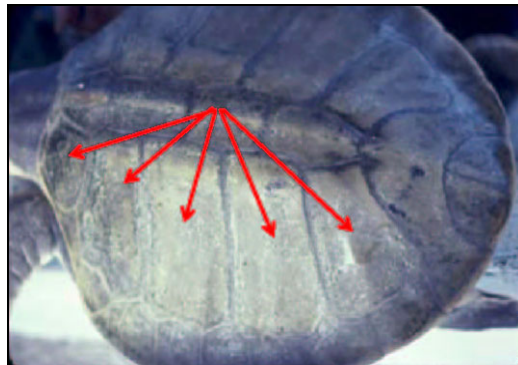
3. *C. caretta* reddish brown head with two pairs of prefrontal scutes.



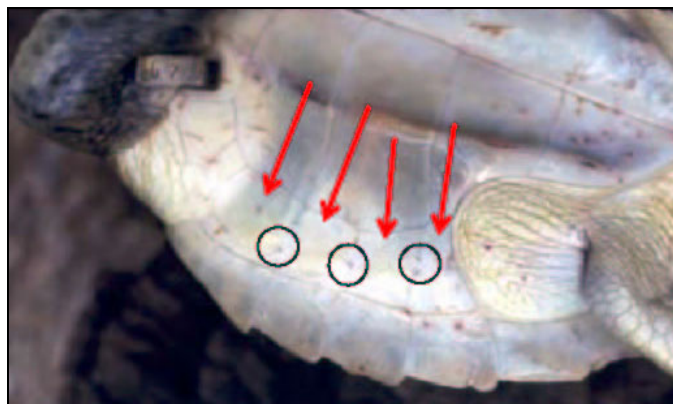
4. *Lepidochelys kempii* carapace showing dark grey color in young juveniles and round shell. *L. kempii* have a carapace width equal to or greater than the carapace length.



5. Subadult *L. kempii* carapace showing light olive green color and five lateral scutes. Shell color lightens as they mature.



6. *L. kempii* plastron showing creamy white color and four inframarginal scutes with pores; note flipper tag.



7. *L. kempii* head showing hook on beak and almond shaped eyes.



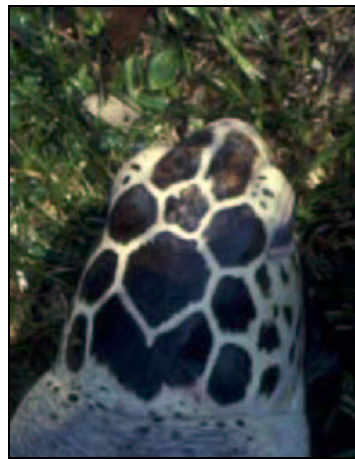
8. *Chelonia mydas* carapace with sunburst pattern and showing typical size seen in South Carolina.



9. *C. mydas* head showing one pair of prefrontal scutes.



10. *C. caretta* and *C. mydas* head shots for comparison of prefrontal scutes.



If you cannot determine the species, salvage the skull and/or the endoplastron bone (equivalent of a breast bone) and bring into our office.

11. Comparison of *C. caretta* and *L. kempii* maxillary bones in the skull. Notice that they touch on the *C. caretta* and are separated by a smaller bone on the *L. kempii*.



12. Head of *C. mydas* showing the serrated lower jaw. Photo by Ellen Hiller.



13. Comparison of endoplastron bones in the *C. caretta*, *L. kempii* and *C. mydas* (from left to right).



14. *Dermochelys coriacea* showing its smooth leather skin with ridges.



15. *Eretmochelys imbricata* with overlapping scutes and pointed marginals. There have been no verified strandings of this species in South Carolina.



16. *E. imbricata* plastron.



17. *E. imbricata* head; note pointed beak.



Sex of the Animal

18. Adult male *C. caretta* showing elongate tail.



19. *C. caretta* showing tail length of juvenile or female.

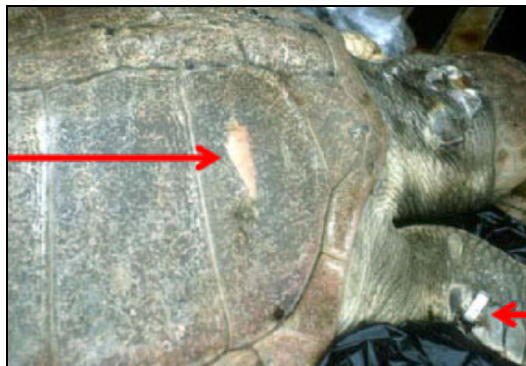


Types of Tags

20. *L. kempii* with flipper tag.



21. *L. kempii* with a living tag in second right lateral scute and flipper tag.



Measuring a Turtle

22. Measuring over the curve from the center of the nuchal notch beginning at edge of skin; note bloated appearance of this code two, adult *C. caretta*.



23. Curved length (maximum) is measured over the curve to the longest tip on either side of the posterior notch on this adult male *C. caretta*. Curved length (minimum) is from the nuchal notch to the apex of the posterior notch.



24. Measuring carapace length (curved) of immature *C. caretta*.



25. Measuring carapace width (curved) at widest point of carapace on *L. kempii*.



Remarks

26. Shark bite on *C. caretta* carapace.



27. *C. caretta* with propeller wounds.



28. Emaciated *C. caretta*; note visible neck muscle.



29. *C. caretta* "Barnacle Bill"; note emaciated state and heavy barnacle load.



30. *C. caretta* entangled in fishing line.



31. *C. caretta* with missing appendages; most likely postmortem shark attack.



32. *C. mydas* killed by dredge.

